

care programs administered by the VA, some have questioned whether the VA's Spina Bifida Program, which provides health care to children of Vietnam War and certain Korean War veterans for spina bifida-related medical conditions, and the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Health Care Program, which provides care for certain birth defects of the biological child of a woman veteran who served in Vietnam, meets the individual requirement. H.R. 5014 leaves no room for doubt.

As a veteran of WWII, I understand what our brave American men and women give up to serve our country. For the past several years, the Democratic Congress has honored them and their dependents with benefits worthy of their service. This legislation continues to pay tribute to our veterans, providing them the respect they deserve by codifying that all VA Health Care programs are covered by the health care reform law. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5014.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 261. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall No. 273: "yes"—Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act of 2009.

COMMENDING TAM TRAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, I rise today to honor the life of Tam Tran.

Tam and her family overcame great odds to come to America. The Vietnamese government sent Tam's father, Mr. Tuan Ngoc Tran, to a "re-education" camp for anti-communist activities. Mr. Tran and his wife, Ms. Loc Thi Pham, escaped political persecution in Vietnam by fleeing in a boat and were rescued at sea by the German navy. They lived in Germany as refugees where Tam and her brother, Mr. Thien Ngoc Tran, were born.

The Tran family came to the United States when Tam was 6 years old to reunite with family members who had settled in California. Her parents applied for political asylum. Their asylum request was denied, but the family received withholding of deportation because they would have faced persecution if they were sent to Vietnam. But withholding does not lead to a green card or U.S. citizenship. Tam and her brother were born in Germany, but were not German citizens. They were stateless, trapped in immigration limbo.

In the meantime, Tam and her brother grew up in Garden Grove. She graduated from Santiago High School, and was accepted into

the University of California at Los Angeles. She worked multiple jobs while carrying a full load of classes, but still managed to graduate from UCLA in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in American Literature and Culture and with Latin, Departmental, and College honors.

Tam also became one of the leading advocates for the "Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors" Act, commonly known as the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act would provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as innocent children, if they graduate from a U.S. high school and serve in the military or attend at least two years of college. The DREAM Act would finally allow Tam to officially become what she always felt herself to be—an American.

I had the pleasure of meeting Tam when she testified before the Immigration Subcommittee on May 18, 2007, on the DREAM Act. Tam described growing up in California, "watching Speed Racer and Mighty Mouse every Saturday morning." She described her frustration at the work permits that never arrived on time even though she was in the country legally, and at not being able to afford the \$50,000 out-of-state tuition and living expenses a year for the Ph.D. program at UCLA, even though she had grown up in California and had been accepted into the program. Tam nonetheless hoped that she would overcome these odds and become an "academic researcher and socially conscious video documentarian." The poise and eloquence of Tam and the other student witnesses at the hearing was the best evidence of how America would benefit from their skills and talents by the passage of the DREAM Act.

Tam came one step closer to achieving her dream when she was accepted into the Ph.D. program in American Civilization at Brown University. She was excelling in her studies and continuing her leadership and advocacy on the DREAM Act, when she was tragically and unexpectedly taken from us. Tam and one of her close friends, Cinthya Felix, also a DREAM Act student, died in a car crash on May 15, 2010.

My heart goes out to the Tran family at their unthinkable loss. I have no doubt that Tam would have contributed much to America. Even though our broken immigration system constantly threw roadblocks in her way, Tam always persevered and fought to live the American dream. I will redouble my effort and commitment to pass the DREAM Act in her memory, so that other innocent children in her predicament will not have to suffer the hardships that Tam had to endure just to become a productive member of this country.

REGARDING H. RES. 1187

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise as an original sponsor of H. Res. 1187 with my colleague Mr. MORAN. This resolution recognizes the contributions of our federal employees and supports the goal of protecting their safety and security.

It is a federal crime to assault or forcefully interfere with a federal employee while they

are engaged in their official duties. Yet, between 2001 and 2008, there were more than 1,200 attacks made on just IRS employees alone. The most recent incident involved a pilot flying a small plane into an IRS office complex in Austin, Texas, killing Vernon Hunter, a Vietnam veteran and IRS employee.

The Federal workforce is comprised of millions of employees who provide every kind of public service from fighting crime and fires, to protecting health, to preserving the environment and securing our borders. These dedicated public servants deserve our support, respect and protection.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to express our appreciation to federal employees for the work they do, and to urge the government to seek out ways to ensure their safety.

HONORING DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the California Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International upon their 74th anniversary. The organization will be holding its annual convention at the Fresno Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fresno, California from Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2, 2010. This is the first time that the annual meeting has been held in Fresno.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International was established in 1929, with the desire to promote professional and personal growth in women educators and excellence in education. Chi State is the State Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and was established in 1936. The organization is involved in literacy and philanthropy projects throughout the state. The membership is made up of active administrators, teachers from kindergarten through college and retirees who continue to substitute or volunteer in classrooms and community centers. Today, there are over six thousand members in California and one hundred and forty thousand members from sixteen countries. Many individual members are also members of other district-level, state and national education organizations.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International offers financial aid to outstanding educational and community projects; as well as women students outside of the United States and Canada pursuing professional careers. The goal of the organization is to provide guidance and inspiration to women educators helping them to excel in their professional careers. They have a strong mentorship program and provide mutual support and interaction in all educational fields and at all levels.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the California Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International on their success in assisting women educators from around the world. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the organization many years of continued success.